Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Spatangus and a Psammechinus.——The Trichina when encysted in salt meat has been found, by M. Fourment, to possess vitality. In salt meat prepared fifteen months back were live Trichinæ, which were fully evolved in the alimentary canal of a new host, and caused death.——Professor Th. Eimer contributes to *Nature* a letter regarding the existence of a voice in lizards, which he has observed in the wall lizard of the rocks of Capri, a peculiarity generally ascribed among reptiles to geckoes and chamæleons alone. This lizard makes a peculiar soft piping sound on being captured, and "uttered repeatedly in quick succession, a series of very sharp tones, sounding like 'bschi,' and reminding me of the hoarse piping of a mouse or a young bird." Dugès also states that *Lacerta edwardsi*, a little lizard peculiar to the shores of the Mediterranean, is apt to utter a sound like the croaking of a Cerambyx, while *Lacerta ocellata*, when angry, will expel its breath so vehemently that a sort of noise is produced. According to Landois *Lacerta viridis* is able to utter a distinctly hissing or blowing sound. *Tapoya douglassii*, a kind of lizard living near the Oregon lake, when irritated, hisses very audibly, while the iguanas are reported to hiss and blow on being caught.——A pigmy pig (*Porculia salvania*), a very rare creature from the Doars of Bhotan, has recently been added to the Zoölogical Society's collection in London. These lively little pigs, says a correspondent of *Nature*, probably weigh hardly as much as a hare, but are most active and energetic, and are ordinary pigs in miniature.——Professor Marey has lately published an article on a "photographic gun," by which he has been enabled to take some most interesting instantaneous photographs of birds in flight.

ENTOMOLOGY.[1]

CHANGE OF HABIT; TWO NEW ENEMIES OF THE EGG-PLANT.—In our writings on the Colorado potato-beetle, we have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that *Doryphora juncta*, although a native of the Atlantic States and living in the midst of our cultivated species of Solanum, has yet never shown any inclination to leave its natural food-plant, the wild horse-nettle (*Solanum carolinense*) for the cultivated species of the genus. We have now for the first time to record its appearance as an enemy to horticulture, Dr. A. Oemler, of Wilmington island, near Savannah, Ga., having found it—larvæ as well as beetles—feeding on his egg-plants in the earlier part of June. There can be no doubt about the correctness of Dr. Oemler's observations, as the specimens were sent to us for determination. This is another of those instances of remarkable and sudden change in the food-habit of a tolerably common and otherwise well-known species which led us to the remarks made on p. 152 of this volume anent "New Insects injurious to Agriculture." As in other cases of this sort the causes of such change are not readily ascertained. In this particular case the new habit may be only temporarily developed in a restricted region, either by the disappearance or poor condition of *Solanum carolinense;* or it may become permanent and cause *D. juncta*, hitherto looked upon as harmless or even beneficial, to vie with its ten-lined relative in destructiveness. Time alone will indicate, as we have no grounds upon which to base any confident prediction.

---

[1] This department is edited by PROF. C. V. RILEY, Washington, D. C., to whom communications, books for notice, etc., should be sent.

Another case very similar to that just mentioned may here be recorded. There is a small tortoise-beetle (*Cassida texana* Crotch) easily distinguished from its congeners by the uniformly pale green color of its upper surface and by the coarse striæ of punctations on the elytra. In 1879, we found it in all stages abundantly in Southern Texas feeding on the leaves of *Solanum elæagnifolium*. Dr. Oemler now writes (June 13th) that he finds eggs, larvæ and imagos of this beetle quite commonly depredating on his egg-plants, though there is no previous record of any such habit, and, indeed, the species is not recorded from the Atlantic States albeit we have found it this very season at Washington on *Solanum carolinense —C. V. Riley.*

NOTES ON MICROGASTERS.—In the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History (vol. XXI, pp. 18-38), Dr. Packard describes, among other parasites of butterflies, certain Microgasters upon which we would make the following remarks:

Microgaster carinata Pack. (p. 25). This, bred from the larva of *Pyrameis atalanta*, should be considered as but a variety of *Microgaster gelechiæ* Riley (1st Rep. Ins., Mo. 178, 1869), bred from *Gelechia gallæsolidaginis* Riley. It differs in nothing but the black anterior and intermediate coxæ and trochanters and darker posterior tarsi and tips of tibiæ—all variable characters within the same species. We have bred the *carinata* form from Penthina.

Microgaster pieridis Pack. (p. 26). This, from the larva of *Pieris rapæ* is a variety of the common, wide spread and polyphagous *Apanteles congregatus* of Say, who bred it from a Sphinx larva. *M. utilis* French (*Can. Ent.* XII, p. 42), as well as the variety of *militaris* referred to on p. 54 of our 8th report on the insects of Missouri are synonymous. The specific name *pieridis* is preoccupied by Bouché (see *Microgaster pieridis* Bé.; Ratzeburg, Die Ichn. d. Forst-insecten II, p. 73), and as variety names are serviceable, especially when, as in this instance, they are entomophagic, we would propose *pieridivora* as a substitute for Packard's variety name.

Microgaster atalantæ Pack. (p. 27). This, from *Pyrameis atalanta* is also but a variety of *Apanteles congregatus* (Say).

Microgaster carduicola Pack. (p. 27). This, bred from *Pyrameis cardui* closely resembles *Apanteles theclæ* Riley, bred from a Thecla larva, but differs in having no median ridge on the metathorax; in the more coarsely punctate basal joints of the abdomen;

in the slightly larger size and paler posterior tibiæ; also in the angulated outer side of first cubical cell and the lack of punctations beyond second abdominal joint.

Microgaster lunatus Pack. (p. 28). This bred from *Papilio asterias*, is an *Apanteles*.—*C. V. Riley.*

DOES PARTHENOGENESIS EXIST IN THE BEE?—According to the experiments of the Abbé Giotto Ulivi, as reported by Prof. G. F. Kroeh, in the *Scientific American*, March 25, 1882, parthenogenesis is a myth. Ulivi constructed flat hives with glass sides, containing three combs above each other, and furnished with shutters and with a portico having glass sides and a trap to prevent egress at will. One series of these hives was filled with bees, stores of honey and pollen, worker and drone brood, and queen cells, sealed and unsealed; a second series had no queen cells, a third no queen cells, drones, or drone brood. The result of careful observations, as stated by Ulivi, are that:

1. Queens are usually fertilized inside the hive. Queens on their return from the so-called "marriage flight" had empty spermathecas, while the act of fertilization was repeatedly witnessed in the hive.
2. They are fertilized several times.
3. Drones are not mutilated in the act of copulation. No lacerated drones were found after several careful examinations of all the drones in hives in which impregnation had taken place, and the whitish appendage attached to the queen's abdomen on her return from the "marriage-flight" was found to consist of excreta.
4. Every egg that hatches into a male or female has been previously fecundated. Queens that had been allowed to fly were afterwards confined in hives containing no drones or drone brood, and either laid no eggs, or laid eggs that did not hatch.
5. Every queen whose spermatic vesicle is distended and filled with liquid has been fertilized.
6. The eggs of a queen that has never met a drone will not hatch.
7. There is no such thing as a fertile worker. Fertile eggs will keep through the winter and hatch in the spring, and this hatching of fertilized eggs in queenless colonies has led to the belief in fertile workers.

The investigations appear to have been carefully and thoroughly conducted, and every result is based upon repeated observations. Should they be confirmed, not only will the theory and practice of bee-keeping be revolutionized, but another example will be added to the many that go to prove how slow mankind should be to accept as true conclusions opposed to the ordinary laws of life. It may be as well to mention that the continued reproduction of the aphides, sometimes called parthenogenesis or virgin maternity, is really of a very different nature. It is a process of budding, differing from the budding of a zoöphyte, chiefly in the fact that it takes place upon an internal instead of upon an external surface.—*W. N. L.*

ARE HONEY-BEES CARNIVOROUS?—In order to elicit farther facts bearing on this subject we publish the following note received long since from Dr. Müller; and also Mr. Mason's observations.

LIPPSTADT, 27, 10, 1880.

My Dear Sir:—My brother Fritz Müller replies to my question whether Apis or stingless Brazilian honey-bees have been observed by him as carnivorous, with the following notes: "1876 November 23, *Apis mellifica* an bepissten Stellen in trockenem Grase.

"November 24. An frischem Fleische ausser Wespen und Fliegen Zahlreiche Bienen: Apis (einzeln), *Melipona varians*, *Trigona pinguicosa* und besonders häufig eine (vielleicht zum Schutze gegen Trigona limao) wie Citronen riechende Art, *Tr. citriodora* nov. spec.?

"November 25. An Fleisch auch *Melipona ccyrcpie* und *Gurupu*."

Regarding the species of Melipona and Trigona here mentioned, I have to add that they are as yet undescribed, and that the names used by my brother are provisional ones.

Yours very faithfully, DR. H. MÜLLER.

THE HONEY-BEE TASTING OF FLESH.—In regard to the alleged case of the honey-bee attacking and killing moths, published in the NATURALIST, Vol. XIV., p. 363, I may say that I have seen at least one, if not several bees (*Apis mellifica*) resting on a piece of meat in a butcher's shop in Providence, R. I., and lapping with its mouth-parts the fresh meat, apparently feeding upon the juice of the beef. This happened in the summer, and within six or seven years.—*Norman N. Mason.*

THE "OVERFLOW BUGS" IN CALIFORNIA.[1]—The following experience from one of my correspondents, Mrs. A. E. Bush, of San Jose, California, is, I think, well worth publishing, as showing how ground-beetles may be so numerous as to become a nuisance to man, the Carabidæ generally being indirectly beneficial to him by devouring plant-feeding species. The insect popularly denominated "Overflow Bug" in California is the *Platynus maculicollis* Dej.

"We lived in Fresno county two years, in the north-eastern part, and in the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada. It is hot and dry there, no trees and many rocks where we were; thermometer ranging from 96 to 108° for about three months. In June and July, when hottest and dryest, the "overflow-bugs" filled the air between sunset and dark; you could not with safety open your mouth. They would light all over your clothes; they filled the house, they swarmed on the table, in the milk, sugar, flour, bread and everywhere there was a crevice to get through. Take a garment from the wall, and you could shake out a cupful. It was a veritable plague. In a shed where the boards had shrunk, and the cracks been battened, the spaces between the shrunken boards were packed full. They were flying for about two weeks, and then they disappeared mostly, or they did not fly much, but were hidden under papers, clothing, and every available place. In November before the rains they spread around but not to fly—make a light in the night, and you would see the floor nearly covered; lift up a rug and the floor under would be black, and they would go scuttling away for some other hiding. I had occasion to take up a floor board after they had apparently disappeared, stragglers excepted. The house was upon underpinning two feet or more from the ground. When the board was raised, there were the overflow bugs piled up against a piece of underpinning, making such a pile as a half bushel of grain would make. They were all through the foothills the same, and much the same in Los Angeles about Norfolk, but they did not fly much in the latter place. In Los Angeles they seemed to be worse before the "Santa Annas," a hot wind from the desert filling the air with sand, and though the chickens were ever so hungry for insects, they would not eat the overflow-bugs. You send for a sack of meal, and when you open it you see a handful of overflow-bugs; in the night you put up your hand to brush one from your face, and then you get up for soap and water to cleanse your hand. In the morning if you put on garments without shaking you get them quickly off and shake them."

---

[1] Communicated by the editor to *Nature*.

ANTHROPOLOGY.[1]

Ethnography of the Philippines.—The mere mention of the Philippine islands carries our minds back to the childhood days when we first learned of Magellan and his tragic fate. The people of these islands are very well described in Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel for Australasia. But the most thorough work will be found in the 67th supplement (Ergänzungsheft) of Petermann's Mittheilungen, from the pen of Professor Ferd. Blumentritt, and dedicated to Dr. A. B. Meyer and Dr. F. Jagor. The work occupies 68 pages of the Mittheilungen, and is accompanied by a bibliography and an excellent colored chart. The inhabitants of the Philippine islands are 1. Negritos; 2. Malays; 3. Chinese, Chinese metis and Japanese.

The Negritos are the Aëtas or Itas, which together with the Samangs, of Malacca and the Mincopees, of Andaman, constitute the Negrito, or dwarf negro stock of this part of the world, to be carefully distinguished from the Melanesian or Papuan negroes

---

[1] Edited by Professor Otis T. Mason, 1305 Q street, N. W., Washington, D. C.